

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16.

2. A composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17.

3. A composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length.

4. A composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at least 6 consecutive amino acids in length.

5. A composition comprising ribavirin and an antigen.

6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a nucleic acid.

7. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a peptide.

8. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is derived from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

9. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said peptide is derived from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

10. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said antigen is a nucleic acid or a peptide corresponding to an antigen selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), hepatitis core antigen (HBcAg), and hepatitis E antigen (HBeAg).

11. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said peptide comprises at least three consecutive amino acids of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NOs.: 1-12.

12. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least 9 consecutive nucleotides of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NOs.: 13-15.

13. A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16.

5 14. A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

10 providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17.

15 15. A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

15 providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length.

20 16. A method of enhancing an immune response to a hepatitis C antigen comprising:

20 identifying an animal in need of an enhanced immune response to a hepatitis C antigen; and

providing to said animal a composition comprising ribavirin and the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at least 6 consecutive amino acids in length.

25 17. A method of making a vaccine comprising:
providing ribavirin;
providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 16; and
mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said vaccine.

30 18. A method of making a vaccine comprising:
providing ribavirin;

providing the peptide of SEQ. ID. NO.: 17; and
mixing said ribavirin and said peptide so as to formulate said vaccine.

19. A method of making a vaccine comprising:

providing ribavirin;

5 providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 13 or a fragment thereof at
least at least 18 consecutive nucleotides in length; and

mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said
vaccine.

20. A method of making a vaccine comprising:

10 providing ribavirin;

providing the nucleic acid of SEQ. ID. NO.: 1 or a fragment thereof at
least 6 consecutive amino acids in length; and

mixing said ribavirin and said nucleic acid so as to formulate said
vaccine.

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